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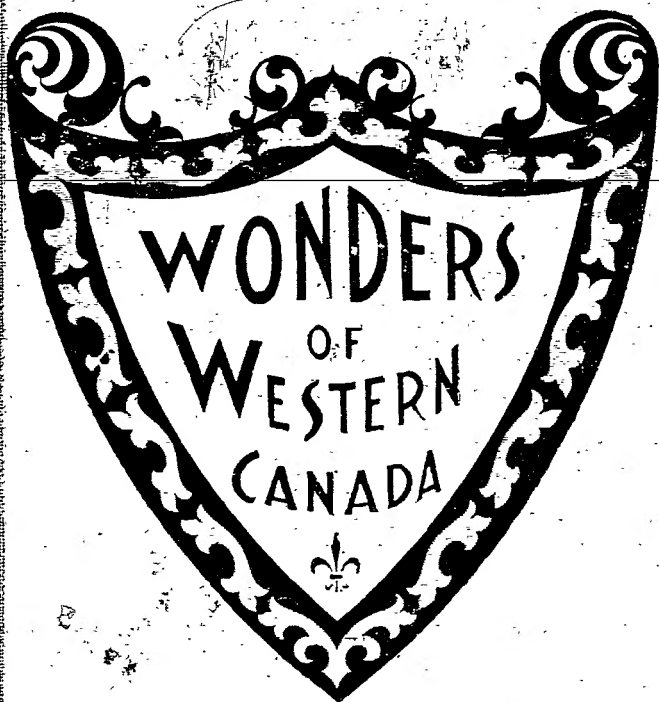
The Wonders of
Western Canada

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THE . . .

WONDERS

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WESTERN CANADA

A

U. S. PRESS

CORRESPONDENT'S

GRAPHIC

DESCRIPTION

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WESTERN CANADA AND ITS WONDERS.

A KLONDIKE AND SOMETHING EVEN BETTER FOUND AT EDMONTON, CANADA, ON THE SASKATCHEWAN.

Agricultural Resources of Northern Alberta—
Yields, Prices and Markets—Gateway to
Immense Gold Fields—Gold, Coal and Petro-
leum, Staple Productions, with Furs as an
Incident—A Klondike which is not a Klon-
dike, but Something Better than a Klon-
dike.

Special Correspondence of the St. Paul "Pioneer Press."

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Feb'y 4, 1898.—
After a week's stay in this north-western city I am
now prepared to say that the new gold fields so
many are en route to explore are the greatest
source of wealth to this section of the country.

They will add to its wealth by the increased
market afforded for agricultural products, but
right in the soil of Northern Alberta is a wealth
concealed better even than gold mines and more
easily attainable.

The Situation Changed.

By far the greater part of its century of exist-
ence, Edmonton has been without means of reach-

ing a market, and hence the inducement for agricultural development did not exist. Now the scene is changing. Railroads and the gold excitement combined have created a market and brought it to its doors.

Every man who goes north from Edmonton to the new gold fields (and they are going by the thousand) relies upon Edmonton for his base of supplies, and Edmonton, in turn, draws upon the surrounding country. The development of the northern country will not be a transient affair like that at Dawson City, because people can live here. The gold excitement is the means to the end. It will bring thousands of people to the country to stay who would otherwise never have even visited it at all.

Reaching the Kootenay.

The great and already populous Kootenay district of British Columbia has been largely a sealed book, supplies going in from Spokane, Wash., but the railroad now being constructed through the Crow's Nest Pass is practically an extension of the Calgary and Edmonton line, and affords direct communication from Northern Alberta to the cities, towns and mining camps of the Kootenay.

Superior Wheat.

Thirty years ago, when Edmonton was a thousand miles from anywhere and several thousand from other places, I remember of samples of Sas-

katchewan wheat being sent to civilization and attracting marked attention by its superior quality. If within a marketable distance from Minneapolis and without duty it would be a formidable rival of the Minnesota No. 1 hard.

It should be borne in mind that as an agricultural district, Edmonton is in its infancy. In speaking of Edmonton in this article I use it for convenience as covering the northern section of Alberta. The southern section of Alberta, including the Calgary district, is at present devoted very largely to stock-raising, and not so much to general agriculture.

The population of the Edmonton district is placed at 20,000, but even so small a number is doubtless liberal. A very considerable portion of the farmers are from the United States, having been attracted here by the fertility of the soil. Iowa, Minnesota and especially the Dakotas have contributed handsomely to increasing the population of this part of Canada.

Immensity of Area.

A committee of the Dominion Senate appointed to ascertain the possibilities of this great Northwest stated in their report that there is a river navigation of about 2,750 miles, of which 1,390 miles are suitable for stern-wheel steamers, which, with their barges, can carry 300 tons, while the remaining 1,360 miles can be plied by light draught sea-going vessels.

The combined river and lake navigation covers 6,500 miles and could be connected with Victoria and Vancouver by way of the mouth of the Mackenzie, the Arctic Ocean and Behring Straits to the Pacific. The committee adds :

"It is now connected on the south by ninety miles of wagon road between Athabasca Landing and Edmonton, with navigable water in the Saskatchewan River."

This brief statement shows the possibilities of an almost unlimited market for Edmonton.

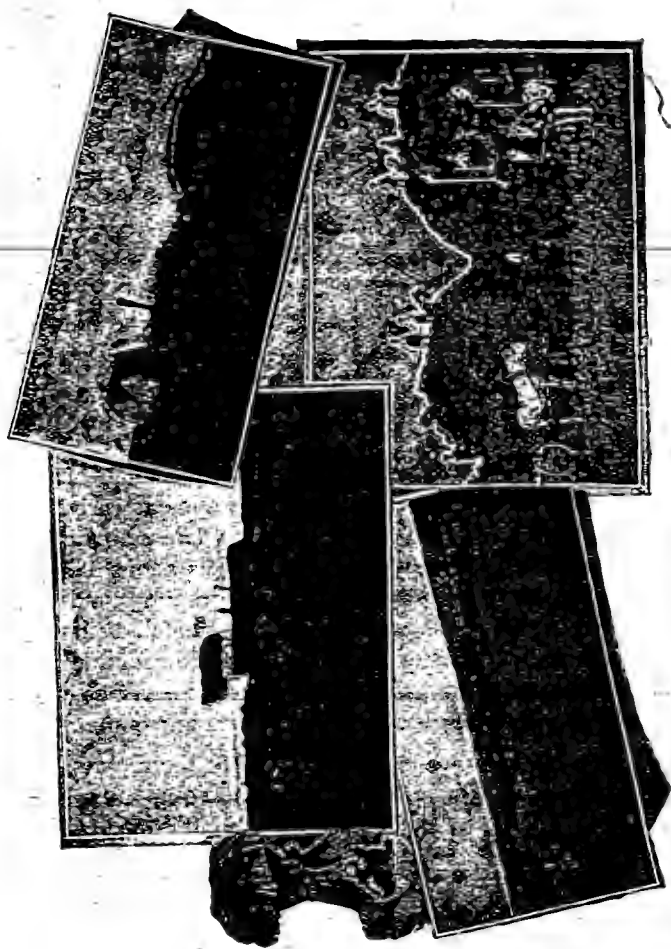
The committee also states that this Northland has 650,000 square miles adapted to the growth of potatoes, and 407,000 square miles suitable for wheat and other small grains. There are 860,000 square miles adapted for stock-raising, 26,000 of which is open prairie, the remainder being more or less wooded. Of this they estimate 274,000 square miles, including the prairie, to be arable land. Here is, in the main, an unoccupied and fertile empire.

Petroleum.

But even this is not all, as in another portion of the report the committee says :

"The evidence submitted to your committee points to the existence in the Athabasca and Mackenzie valleys of the most extensive petroleum fields in America, if not in the world."

The Government is now engaged in sinking wells at Fort McMurray on the Athabasca River, 350 miles from Edmonton, and on the Pelican River, 120 miles from Athabasca Landing. Tar



Harvest scenes in Western Canada

crops out on the surface at points along the Athabasca River in sufficient quantities to be gathered in its crude shape and used by the boat builders for caulking. This is a good oil indicator. The belief here is very general that great oil wells will be developed in this region by the Government explorations.

The capacity of this country is estimated by the Senate committee to be sufficient to support the combined populations of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria and parts of France and Russia.

Statistics for Farmers.

The average date of seeding is the middle of April, and the harvest sometimes begins as early as the 5th of August, but the average date is about the middle of August. Haying begins about the 20th of July. Frost very rarely injures crops and usually only those late sown. The rainfall averages about 20 inches. The summers are cool and do not parch the ground, the mercury never going above 92 degrees, and seldom as high as that.

The winters are long and cold, but the reports of extremely low temperature are based upon exceptional weather and are not the rule. It is the low range exceptions which have given Edmonton its cold reputation. With the exception that there is good sleighing, though not deep snow, I find the weather no more wintry than when I left St. Paul, and then it was exceptionally mild for Minnesota.

Yields and Prices.

The average yield of wheat in 1894 was $37\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to the acre, and in 1897 it was 35 bushels, which is about the crop to be relied upon. Oats average 59 bushels, barley $38\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of 49 lbs., potatoes 300 and turnips 340 bushels. Wild hay yields two tons to the acre and sells for \$4 per ton. Wheat is bringing 60 cents, oats, barley and potatoes 25 cents each per bushel.

The sales of the 1897 crop already amount to 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, 1,500,000 oats, and 300,000 barley. These yields are none of them exceptional, but according to past experience can be relied upon for the future.

Cost of Land.

Government and railroad wild lands can be bought for \$3. per acre. Wild lands are held by private parties at \$4.25 and improved lands from \$7 to \$9 per acre. The Government gives one-half of the land in each township to actual settlers.

Vast Market.

Besides the northern water outlets for a market as already described, and the Kootenay district of British Columbia, with its thousands of population engaged in mining enterprises to be reached the present year by rail, there is an outlet to the east down the Saskatchewan by steamer to Lake Winnipeg, from whence it is expected rivers will be made navigable to Hudson Bay.

Here is the combination Northern Alberta and the Edmonton district offer as an agricultural proposition :

Excellent and healthy climate. Free and cheap lands, both wild and improved. Enormous yields. A market so immense it cannot be oversupplied. It is an agricultural Klondike to be obtained for the asking.

Coal in Abundance.

It is not always that a cold climate has the compensating feature of fuel, but Edmonton has certainly been kindly dealt with by nature. The steep banks of the Saskatchewan are full of a good grade of bituminous coal. It crops out on the surface, and instead of sinking shafts they simply dig straight into the bank. The whole town rests on a coal bed.

At present it is only used for home consumption and the mining is crude. As it is delivered in town for \$2 per ton, it is a bonanza which banishes the rigours of the winter. While, as it is now, it is a good grade and the only fuel used in the town, better than Iowa and at least equal to the best Illinois coal brought to the Twin Cities, a better grade will undoubtedly be found when it is mined at a greater depth. It is destined to become an article of export to the northern country, and would go to the south save that they have coal beds of their own. There would be "millions in it" if Minnesota had such coal mines.

Fur Trade.

I have purposely omitted the fur trade as that was an important matter 100 years ago at this point. The climate induces the animals to wear the fur on the outside and that tempts the cupidity of man to such a degree that Edmonton is still the largest primary raw fur market in America.

A Retrospect.

When I begin to recapitulate what I find here it seems marvellous. Gold at the very door and also the gateway to the northern gold fields, rich in returns and immense in area. The greatest raw fur market in America. Agricultural resources rarely equalled and never surpassed. An unlimited supply of coal soon to be followed by flowing oil wells. An available and permanent market creating a demand greater and more rapid than the supply can be produced.

This is Edmonton, Canada, a town of 2,000 people, 1,360 miles from the Twin Cities.

TESTIMONIALS FROM OREGON FARMERS.

Last year a number of Oregon farmers, having failed to succeed in that state, had their attention directed to Canada, and following the advice of others who had preceded them and had done well, they took up homesteads in the Edmonton district, province of Alberta. A letter recently received, addressed to Mr. W. V. Bennett, says :

EDMONTON ONE OF THE BEST STOCK DISTRICTS IN THE NORTH.

Edmonton, July 20th, 1897.

Sir,—We came to Edmonton in the fall of '96 (October); came from Oregon, U.S.A.; we like the country well on account of its good qualities, which are numerous. There is plenty of good land, good water, plenty of wood, plenty of timber for building purposes, and one of the best stock countries in the world. Stock is a good price, and will be for some time to come on account of the Kootenay country being opened up by the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, one hundred miles of which will be built this season. On arriving here we went mining in the river, and made very fair wages, but we expect to do better this year, on account of the high water, which will wash the gold into the bars of the river. Plenty of rain this season, and crops are looking splendid. Some of the wheat is well headed out. We can say this for Alberta; it is the best poor man's country between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. We are getting two homesteads seven miles from Edmonton—timbered land, easily cleared, and will move on them this fall. Would not go back to the United States nowhere. No taxes but school taxes. In addition to wood there is plenty of coal along the banks of the river.

WILLIAM BALL,
G. W. KIMBALL,

A. E. BALL,
H. McCRAY.

**OUTLOOK FAR BEYOND MY
EXPECTATIONS.**

Calgary, N.W.T., Sept. 20, 1897.

M. V. McInnes, Esq.,
Canadian Government Agent,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir,—I left home on the 10th, arriving at Winnipeg at 4.20 p.m., 14th, where I met Mr. McCreary, and although I had but about an hour before the train left again, he very kindly gave me all the necessary information and assistance. From Winnipeg to Calgary, more especially Manitoba, are fields of beautiful shocked grain and, at intervals, herds of fine cattle, with now and then a drove of spirited horses ; also, at a distance can be seen dotting the hillsides, numberless sheep—in a word, the sights are grand.

The train reached Calgary at 2 a.m., 16th, where I left the train. When I went into a grazing country, about thirty miles, crossing the Bow River at Dunboro', there I found ranchmen who also gave me valuable information, besides keeping me two days and nights—showing me their drives, their habits, how they provided for winter feed, &c., which is not absolutely necessary, but in case of a severe winter they have stacks of native grass which is, I think, equal to our Michigan grain for beef-making and health-giving. I returned last night to the city, coming in a different way in order to see more of the country, although the latter was not travelled. I am now fifty-eight miles in an opposite direction, where I have stopped off on my way to

Edmonton, that I might again look on the beautiful fields. Not far from here is a sheep ranch of only 8,000 sheep. I can look most any direction and see sheep, cattle and horses, with plenty of feed. Lots of water here. If there are no lakes, there are streams; if no streams, there are plenty of springs, gushing out lots of water. I find the water excellent, with few exceptions. Within ten rods of me there is a well of beautiful, cool water, only 23 feet deep.

My company is waiting for me and I must close. I will write again when I have my memorandum more fully prepared. Even in my hurry at this moment, I must say that the outlook is far beyond my expectations.

If you will kindly write me, please address to Edmonton; cannot get there for three or four days.

Yours truly,

A. J. URQUHART.

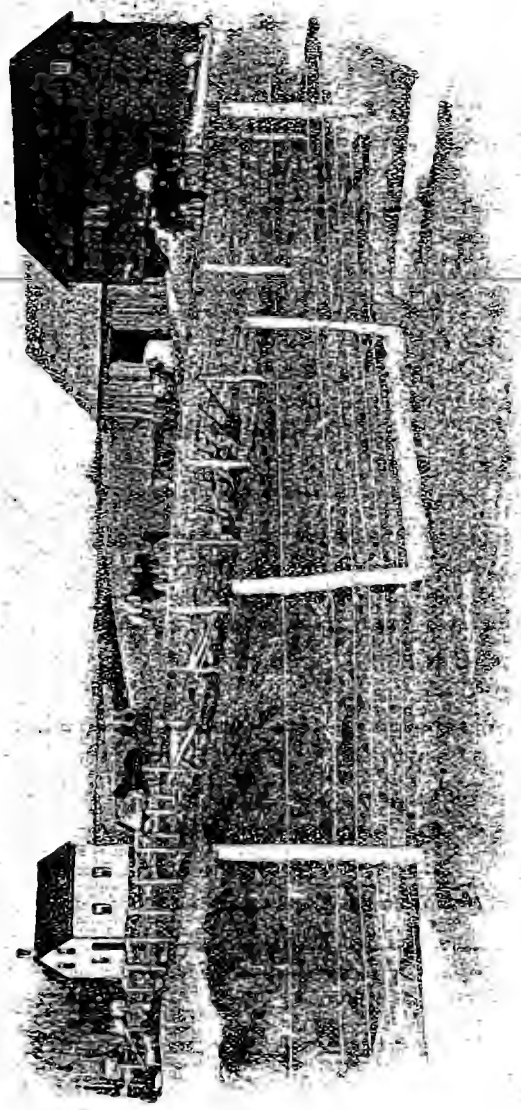
**MORE ENERGETIC, STRONG
GERMANS NEEDED.**

(Translation—German.)

Wetaskiwin, Alberta, 4th Dec., 1897.

I came here a few years ago on the lookout for a suitable district to settle. I travelled through the whole North-west, but no place made as great an impression on me as Alberta. As I saw the beautiful herds of cattle which grazed on the rich, flower-covered prairies, the undulating grain fields,

Pulp Buildings and Papermill, Maine.



the splendid meadows and park-like woods, I at once decided in favour of this country. I was particularly pleased with the vicinity of Wetaskiwin, where a large number of German families live in comfortable circumstances. Many have become prosperous during the last few years.

Here I settled with my family, and up to now have not repented of doing so. Railway lands, and even improved farms are still to be had at moderate, advantageous rates, as this is a new country, and in the vicinity of our growing little town. Free Government land, but at some distance, is still to be had.

To bring this district to its development we need still more energetic, strong Germans. Last spring we built here a large butter factory, with centrifugal motors, where the milk of our settlers can be disposed of advantageously, and the best customers are Germans.

Wheat, barley and oats yield excellent harvests, and in no other place have I eaten such excellent and tasty potatoes. The raising of cattle is very remunerative, that I know from my own experience, as I own over 200 head.

The climate is one of the best in the world; diseases are, up to this, unknown.

There is still room for hundreds of industrious people, who are at all times welcome.

Should any one desire further particulars, I am ready at any time to give them in writing, for we

wish that more energetic German families would join us. Kindly address :

A. S. ROSENROLL.

Justice of the Peace,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Can.

**A FEW YEARS AGO HAD NOTHING.
NOW OWNS HORSES, CATTLE,
MACHINES, &C.**

Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Nov. 30. 1897.

I came to this neighbourhood in June, 1892, from Eastern Canada, it having been particularly recommended to me. I can assure you that I am very well satisfied. In the course of my journey here I did not see anything that pleased me as well as Wetaskiwin. The richly-grassed, flower-covered prairie, with here and there woods, give this region a particular charm. This region also adapts itself to mixed farming, i.e., raising cattle and grain-growing, in which respects it is not surpassed by any other in the world. There is a good supply of wood for building and fuel, and does not cost anything. I know many families that a few years ago had no means, or very little, who are now comfortably off, i.e., have threshed over 1,000 tons of grain, and own a large number of horses, cattle, machines and agricultural implements. Here, with small means to begin with, one can make a start, for there are many opportunities of working, which are improving. For agriculture, this region is well adapted, and nowhere can a

hard-working German assure himself a more successful future than here.

Free Government land is still to be had some distance off, but from the railway company may be purchased land quite cheaply and on easy terms, ten years to pay it off in. I am quite sure that if energetic German families on the other side were to decide on coming over, to found an agreeable home for themselves, they would never repent such a step.

I shall be glad to give any further particulars to any one who wishes for them, and hope that our German settlement will receive a greater addition to it.

L. E. BENZ,
Flour and Sawmill Proprietor.

FOUR DAYS FROM SLEIGHING TILL SEEDING.

(As published in the Brown City "Banner.")

Through the courtesy of William Liebler we are permitted to publish the following letter which will give "Banner" readers an idea of this land of free homes :—

Didsburg Station, Alberta, N.W.T., July 4, '97.

I will write you a letter and let you know how we are getting along in the North-west. Well, William, I can say this much, that we all like this country yet, we have very good health ; my wife is healthier since she came out here. She is not

so well just now. She made a couple of long trips. We were down in Calgary two weeks ago. We have had lots of rain since June 1, and crops are looking splendid. Allen hired out to a rancher. He went away about six weeks ago and we have not seen him since. We expect him home pretty soon. He is getting \$300 a year. Abner, Alvin, Cora, and Marks are at home. We took a contract to put up 200 tons of hay at \$2 per ton. We intend to put it up in four weeks, so I think we can make good wages if we have good weather for haying.

Well, William, you were speaking in your letter about the muddy roads you had in Michigan; that is something we are not bothered with. We had snow from the fourth of November till the latter part of March. We were out in the woods on Saturday with the sleighs, and the next Thursday we started to sow our grain; that was only four days from sleighing till seeding. We were done seeding on the 15th of April. Yes, William, I tell you this is the country for a man to come to if he wants a home. I never felt sorry that we left Michigan, not that I think Michigan is no good, but I know it was better for us all that we left. We are all doing well here. We have 20 head of cattle and 13 horses on our ranch, and have 6 pigs, 27 turkeys, 60 chickens, 9 geese and 40 old hens, and we have thirty acres of crop in.

From your friend,

WILLIAM HUNSPERGER.

PEOPLE CONTENTED, PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY.

A HEALTH RESORT FOR THE PEOPLE
OF THE EAST AND SOUTH.

To the Honourable
Mr. Sifton, Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir.—It was my fortune last August to visit the North-west Territory of Canada under the direction of your agent in Kansas, for the purpose of investigating the nature of the soil, its products, and the climatic characteristics of the country, with a view to reporting the results of my observations to the people of this country.

Made the Closest Inquiry.

By the direction of the head of the immigration department in Winnipeg, I traversed the Canadian Pacific Railway to Calgary, thence to Edmonton; also the Manitoba and North-Western to Yorkton. I stepped off the train at almost every principal station during the day and interviewed such parties as happened to come in my way regarding the character of the country, the condition of the settlers, and the prospects of the future. I found the people ready to respond to my inquiries in a courteous manner. Besides this method of investigation, I stopped off at various points, drove through the country, visited the homes of the farmers and ranchers, and gathered what information was at hand by observation and inquiry. In

this latter way I spent seven days in the vicinity of Winnipeg, one day at Brandon, one at Calgary, three at Edmonton, two at Birtle and two at Yorkton. At all of these places I found your agents courteous and accommodating, and the people contented, prosperous and happy.

My report to the people here was printed in two of the county papers. It was copied entirely into a weekly paper in St. Paul and quoted in part by various periodicals in the country, so that my ideas have had wide circulation and been sought after to a large extent by private interview and correspondence. I sent you copies of the "Saturday Bee," of Hutchinson, Kansas, containing account of my trip. But I am advised that it might be agreeable to you and of advantage to your department, if I should make a report directly to you of my impressions concerning the conditions and prospects of the country and its population.

An Excellent Health Resort.

A pleasure trip and summer health resort for the people of the east, and particularly of the south, than which I know of no better, is a journey from St. Paul to points in Manitoba. The change from the dead level open prairie and dry or muddy rivers of Nebraska and Kansas to the park-like country of north-western Canada, with its undulating surface, its intervals of timber, its clear streams and small lakes is most enchanting, while the bracing temperature of a cooler and more equable climate is perfectly delicious and stimu-

lating. Heretofore the pleasure and health-seekers have sought the mountains of Colorado for relief from the sweltering heat of the western plain, but as the high altitude of Colorado militates against the benefit otherwise to be derived from a cooler climate, it is reasonable that the tendency would be north, where the scenery is equally diversified, the temperature more even and the altitude lower than at home. While invalids suffering from pulmonary weakness ought to seek the higher altitude, it is a well-attested fact that the vast majority of nervous, overtaxed men and women of this land would find it far more beneficial to seek a lower level.

Attractions for Tourists.

There is the best of accommodation in Winnipeg and the other cities of Western Canada for the transient visitors or the permanent settlers. The country in the north abounds in game and fish, giving the best of sport and recreation. Lakes, of beautiful clearness, of small and vast dimensions, abound, affording the delights of boating by day or by night. Then, if one needs and seeks the higher altitude or the excitement of the mining surroundings, Calgary and cities west on the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Kootenay region invite and satisfy the most extravagant desires. I met Americans travelling there surprised and delighted with the conditions which make Western Canada probably the best summer health and pleasure resort in the world.

Farming.

But as the principal object of my visit was to verify the conditions that would make Western Canada a desirable place to live in permanently, I directed my observations particularly to the foundation of the state farming.

Cereals.

I found the cereals successfully produced in every part visited, except portions of Southern Assiniboia and Southern Alberta. Here the rainfall did not seem to be sufficient for this class of farming. As we traversed the country westward on the Canadian Pacific Railway from Winnipeg, the wheat, oats and barley increased in acreage and improved in quality. The crops of these kinds made a fine showing, especially in the regions of Portage la Prairie, Brandon and westward to Moosomin. Through the cordiality of several Brandon citizens, we visited the Experimental Farm at Brandon and drove quite extensively about the country to the south and east. We freely interviewed many parties during our country ride and some more as they came to the city to trade, and found the people very generally satisfied with their homes, their crops and general prospects. The same may be said of the country north of Calgary, say half way to Edmonton. North of Wetaskiwin and all around Edmonton, a distance of twenty-five miles or more, the grain was most excellent. Through the courteous attention of citizens, my stay there was made profitable and pleas-

ant. I was also much aided by the courtesy and advice of Rev. C. B. Freeman, of North Edmonton. I was permitted to visit a large section of this country and to interview a great number of farmers. I found them wonderfully well satisfied with the locations and conditions, excepting the markets, but which they said were more promising now than formerly.

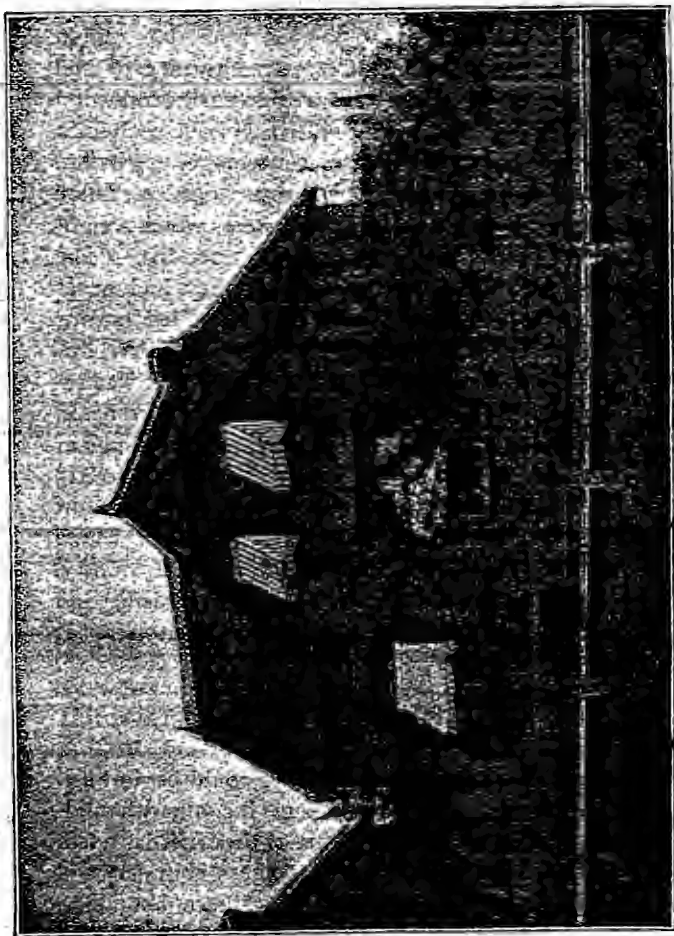
Along the Manitoba and North-Western.

The country along the Manitoba and North-Western Railway is quite diversified with streams, lakes, timber and rolling surface. The quality of the soil is also mixed and spotted. Along the most of the way to Binscarth there were excellent crops of grain. The same was true in regard to the country around Yorkton. At Birtle we were shown the country to the south and west of that thriving town. We found fine fields of grain in every direction.

Vegetables and garden truck of all kinds in all parts were produced in abundance. The potato was prolific and of good quality, but particularly excellent as we travelled west.

Ranching.

is successfully followed in Assiniboia, Southern Alberta and Northern Manitoba. The grass is abundant and rich, preparing the stock for the markets of the world without the aid of grain or even vegetables. While I saw excellent exhibits of this industry in all of the localities named as ranch-



A Western Canada Home.

ing districts, I gathered the most definite information at Yorkton. Seven carloads of beeves were shipped to the English market from that station while we were there. They were 3-year-olds and had never been fed grains, and a small proportion of them were said to be raised without shelter or hay, yet they weighed, on an average, 1,400 lbs., some of them weighing as high as 1,650 lbs. There was also a group of 2-year-old steers which weighed 6,480 lbs., the best weighing 1,200 lbs. The man who sold these steers said they had never been sheltered in a stable nor been fed hay or grain. These cattle sold 300 miles west of Winnipeg for \$3 per 100 pounds, live weight. I was repeatedly informed that calves could be purchased in Manitoba for from \$5 to \$7 each; yearlings at from \$10 to \$15 each; 2-year-olds from \$20 to \$25 each, and when sold at three years old they brought from \$35 to \$45 each. This information, which will apply quite generally throughout the country, will go to show what can be made by raising and fattening cattle in the North-west Territories. It is clear that

With Moderate Capital

a person of ability and ambition could begin business here and secure a handsome income with moderate toil. In the greater part of the territory north of a line 100 miles from the southern boundary and west of Manitoba from the southern boundary, lands for ranching purposes may be found with abundant grass and pure water. There a good locality may be selected and homesteaded for \$20. The

open country all around for miles and miles may be used for pasturage and hay. And if he should make a selection in the north, there is no telling how long one might enrich himself, undisturbed by the encroachments of others. There is no doubt great fortunes will be made in the near future by wideawake and ambitious men in this industry.

Mixed Farming

is gaining in favour throughout the country. On most farms some land is not suitable for cultivation, but is well adapted for hay or pasturage. Then by raising and fattening stock or keeping dairy cows, the refuse material will be consumed and even the other crops used on the farm to better advantage than selling them. Accordingly, poultry, hog raising and dairying are becoming more popular every day, and are now a fruitful source of income. The Government of the country is doing a great deal to encourage dairying by the establishing of creameries in every part of the country, when a sufficient supply of milk is guaranteed. This is highly appreciated by the people.

The Markets

of a country is a question of great importance to the settler, and it becomes still more pressing as one recedes from the sea-board. "The prices of Ontario or the Eastern States cannot be reached here ; but they compare favourably with those of the Western States. Before the Canadian Pacific

Railway was built this was a burning question, but it is largely solved now. There is a strong demand for the beef and wheat in England, and valuable markets for butter, eggs and poultry are being developed in the immense mining camps of British Columbia and across the sea in Japan. Of course, the price of beef and wheat will be governed by the supply in the old world. But the farmers of this part will stand equal in this matter with any other parts of America, according to the distance from navigable water. There has been a great improvement in the markets in the last few years, and the settlers look upon the prospects for the future with more than ordinary satisfaction.

Taxation

was a matter of investigation. Taxation lies with the people. There is none until improvements are demanded sufficiently to organize a municipality, or there are children enough in a limited locality to demand a school. But even when a school is needed, the Government has arranged to provide 75 per cent of the cost of running it. The settlers are to tax themselves for less than 30 per cent of the cost. I met a lady who owns a large herd of cattle and who has been in the locality where she resides for over nine years, and has never paid one cent of taxes yet.

The Public Free School

is established by law. When twelve children between five and sixteen years of age are found in a

district, the inhabitants may organize a school district if the majority of the residents vote in favour of it. But the settlers generally seem anxious to establish schools, which are of a high order, meeting the requirements of a well-defined and up-to-date school law.

Religion is Free.

There is the utmost liberty and freedom of conscience enjoyed in the practice of religion. Churches of almost every name are established in the localities occupied, and they attend to their worship without interference. There is a manifest respect for religion and the authority of God's word throughout the country.

The Climate

has especially been a matter of grave suspicion whenever the North-west Territories of Canada have been suggested as a place for settling a farming population. Is there plenty of rain? Do not frosts injure the crops frequently? Is not the cold so intense as to make it disagreeable to live there? And does not the stock suffer disastrously in the winter from the intense cold? are questions which fall upon the would-be promoter like showers of hail. Of course, I made inquiries and investigated the records to see what answers could be honestly given. I saw the grain harvested this year without having been injured by frost. But upon inquiry I found that grain planted in low ground or late in the season is liable to be injured. Experi-

ence has taught the farmer to evade this danger, so that the amount hurt in this way is now very small and, indeed, has always been limited to a small acreage. With a judicious use of the experience of those who have been here for years, the injury to crops by frost would not be worth mentioning.

The Rainfall.

As to the rainfall, I found an almost unanimous answer that was favourable. There is rarely too much except for the heavy land along river bottoms, and there rarely too little. The winters are usually dry and the greater amount of precipitation occurs in April, May, June and July. The autumn is almost rainless. In regard to the discomfort of the cold in winter, I heard no outcry. They know how to meet it and seem better satisfied with their dry steady cold than persons further south are with their changeable weather from frost to rain and slush. Of course, they build their houses to be warm, and clothe themselves in like manner. As to the cattle, they suffer no inconvenience with any reasonable shelter and attention to feed. The best of farmers and ranchers provide shelter and feed for them for four to six months, but many let them rustle for themselves, winter and summer, without any serious losses. But their summers are exceedingly pleasant. The day is not unpleasantly warm, and the nights are cool.

I visited the Meteorological Station at Edmonton, and found this conclusion supported by the Government reports, which covered several years.

Mining.

The mineral resources of a country are of the first importance. An abundance of coal is found and is mined in many parts of the territories. Iron, copper, silver, gold and other minerals already engage the skill and energy of the miner. Gold in paying quantities has been found in various parts. We were informed that the placer mines on the Saskatchewan near Edmonton are rich in the precious metal. It is said that men wash out of the sand in the bars of the river at the rate of from \$2 to \$7 per day, and leave the larger part of the gold contained in the black sand. It was also reported to us that gold has been found in rich sand in the Peace, Liard and McLeod rivers, paying each man at the rate of \$15 to \$20 per day. It is also announced that gold-bearing quartz has been found east of Lake Winnipeg, exceedingly rich in that mineral.

From these announcements which, however, we were not so well able to verify as to other matters referred to in this report, the future prospects of the mining industry are full of hope in the North-west of Canada.

The Best Place to Settle.

Where the country is mostly all good and easily accessible it is difficult to decide. But a variety of considerations should be thought over, and the different elements of the problem should receive their proper value before satisfactory conclusion could be reached. Much depends upon what kind of

farming one wishes to pursue. If grain-raising is the chief object, then the high lands nearest all the railroads are best. Other parts at a distance from a railroad might produce equally well, but the expense of shipping has to be considered. Then the question of buying railway land or homesteading might take people a long way apart. Railway land in good sections may be found almost everywhere in easy distance from the railway, but the Government lands available for settlement have been well taken up. For mixed farming an abundance of railway land at \$3 per acre may be found along the Manitoba and North-western Railway; in many localities along the Canadian Pacific Railway, going west from Winnipeg, and going north from Calgary to Edmonton. Government land is plentiful north-west and south of Yorkton, and about five miles away from the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. It is said there is an abundance of Government land along the Prince Albert Railway. For ranching purposes a few miles from railway is no particular disadvantage. Plenty of good sites for ranches may be selected where the grass and water are plentiful and with plenty of room for grazing purposes.

I would advise all who want free homes to go to Western Canada. I would advise renters and young men to go there. I would not advise men who are well fixed here and past middle life to go unless they wish to settle their sons on farms and desire to be near them. I have travelled over this continent, and know of no location where a man can make a home and increase his property so

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easily as in Western Canada. In case he has no capital, he may soon own a home with thrift and economy. In case he has capital, where can he invest it with as good assurance of profit. It is a place where fortunes are being made now.

I herewith transmit some of the interviews held with farmers in different parts of the country :

Mr. Marsh, Moosomin, Assiniboia,

has lived where he now resides for over twenty years. He and his neighbours are well pleased with the country. He never lost a crop ; has raised forty bushels of wheat per acre ; once ten, but usually twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre. All his neighbours who were not shiftless or lazy are now independent, although all were poor when they settled.

Several Men at Red Deer, Alberta,

This is a good stock country. There is plenty of rain. We have fine water. We require markets, but the opening of the Kootenay mines is helping us.

Mr. Kelley, Wetaskiwin, Alberta,

came from Minnesota with almost nothing. He left a half section in Minnesota but would not return to it on any account. He says the crops are good. He recommended the place.

Mr. Beals, Edmonton, Alberta,

is a native of Prince Edward Island, has been here four years, likes the place well and believes he has done a good thing in coming here.

Mr. Tough, Edmonton, Alberta,

came five years ago from London, Ontario. He lives five miles in the country, has done well and is well satisfied with the place.

Chas. McLaughlin, 18 Miles North-west of
Edmonton, Alberta,

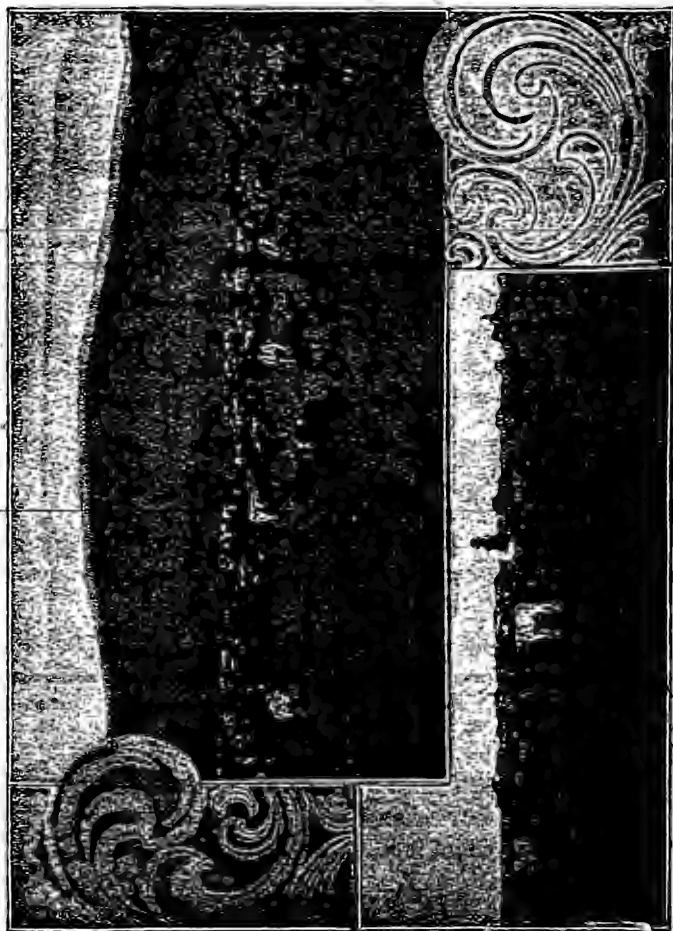
came from Colfax, Nebraska, where he lived nine years. Came here four years ago, owns a quarter section and believes he is all right if he stays with it ; advises men in Nebraska to come here. Made sixty bushels of oats to the acre the first year, and about fifty on an average since. His wheat averages twenty bushels per acre.

John Maloney, St. Albert, Alberta,

has been here eighteen years, likes the country, the soil and the climate. Frost does very little harm.

Louis and Leger Como, St. Albert, Alberta,

came from St. Joseph's Clyde, Kansas, three years ago ; have heard the markets have been poor in Kansas since they left. They had improved their condition financially, but are lonesome for their friends in Kansas.



Ranching in Western Canada.

J. E. Bell, of Roseland, near Brandon, Man.,
has been in the country twenty-six years, has raised from twenty to thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, usually thirty. His smallest yield of wheat was thirteen bushels per acre. Says there is not more than one year in five not up to the average. His oats have made from 25 to 75 bushels per acre.

W. Dregger, Yorkton, Assa.,
moved here eight years ago, had enough money to buy 11 cattle and file on 160 acres. Now he owns 65 cattle, 10 horses, 540 sheep, hogs, fowls, farming machinery, and 960 acres of land, and does not owe a cent. He is well pleased.

Malcolm McKinley, Edmonton, Alberta,
came from Prince Edward Island nine years ago, has done well and recommends everybody to settle in this country.

Mr. Elliott and Mr. Puffer of Lacombe, Alberta,
Elliott came from Ontario and Puffer from Michigan; have been here for some time; came poor, now are well off. Would say to all who are willing to work, come. Have friends who came here on their advice and they are well satisfied. This is an excellent locality for stock.

Mr. West, Innisfail, Alberta,
came from Prince Edward Island. Keeps store and is doing well; likes the country; and only misses the ocean.

Mr. Marsh, Beulah, Man.,

twelve miles south-east of Birtle, likes the country, good for wheat ; has been looking for a railway, and expects one, soon.

Mr. Foster, Railway Agent, Birtle, Man.,

came here from Nova Scotia nine years ago ; thinks it better than Nova Scotia ; knows many men near Birtle who were poor when they came, and who are well fixed now.

Met a Scotchman at Bridenberg.

He had lived thirty years in the United States ; had taken \$500 when he came from Scotland, and left Chicago \$50 in debt. He said this is the place for the workingman. I only have to work six months in the year and have plenty.

A. Schramm, Yorkton, Assiniboia,

came here six years ago ; didn't own enough to buy a cow without borrowing \$5. Now he has a quarter of land, 26 cows, 6 horses ; wheat makes 26 bushels per acre and oats make 30 bushels per acre.

Mrs. Bousie, near Yorkton,

came here with a sick husband nine years ago. He was unable to do work. She took the man's place, following the plough and wielding the axe. He died last winter, leaving her with three little girls.

They had \$100 when they arrived. Now she has a half section of land, a good team, 25 head of cattle and machinery. She has a fine crop of wheat and oats, and is well satisfied.

Mrs. Moots, near Yorkton.

came here nine years ago without anything ; is now in good circumstances ; has 60 head of cattle, good teams and sheep ; is well pleased with the country.

I. J. Black, Elton, Man.,

came from Ontario seventeen years ago. Is more than satisfied he came. His wheat has made best years 30 to 35 bushels per acre. Though all the time his average has been 20 bushels per acre. His oats have made best years from 50 to 75 bushels per acre, and the poorest crop was 18 bushels per acre.

I advertised in Winnipeg for a man who had come from Nebraska or Kansas and was satisfied enough to go back. But my advertisement brought no reply.

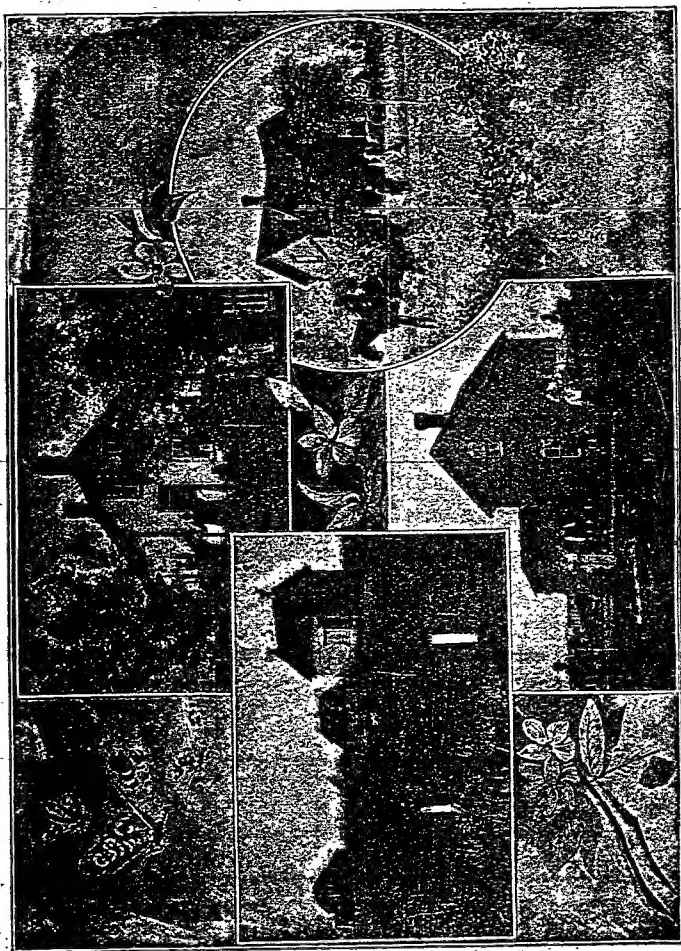
Trusting that this report may be of some value to you in confirming the representations that your agents have made and which are contained in your publications,

I have the honour to be

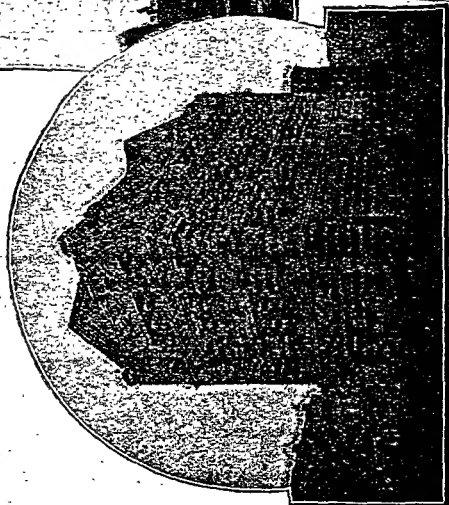
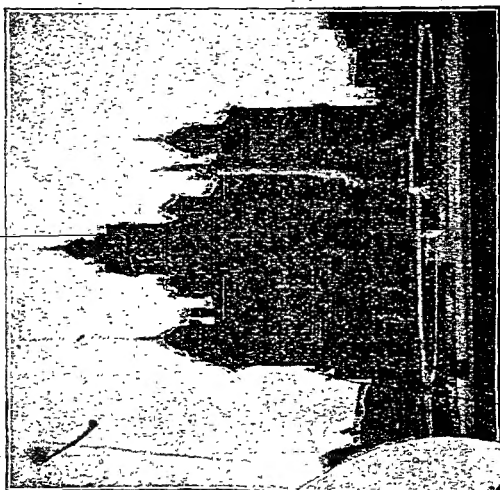
Yours truly,

W. D. BRADSHAW, Ph. D.

Hutchinson, Kansas, 15th Jan., 1898.



Group of farm buildings in Manitoba.



Post Office and City Hall, Winnipeg.

